



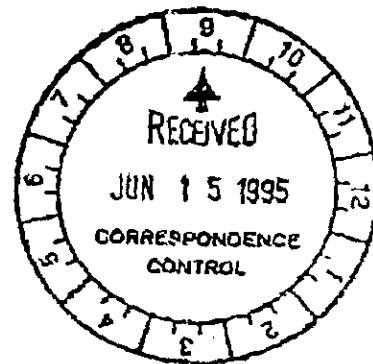
Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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95-NMD-071

JUN 13 1995



Dr. A. L. Trego, President
Westinghouse Hanford Company
Richland, Washington

Dear Dr. Trego:

APPROVAL OF K BASINS SLUDGE DISPOSITION STRATEGY

- References: (1) WHC ltr from J. C. Fulton to C. A. Hansen, RL, "K Basins Sludge Disposition Strategy" (Ltr. No. 9552284), dtd. April 24, 1995.
- (2) DOE ltr From C. A. Hansen to Dr. A. L. Trego, WHC, from "Approval of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Path Forward Recommendation" (Ltr. No. 95-AMW-003), dtd. February 14, 1995.

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance and direction to WHC with regard to implementing the K Basins sludge disposition strategy. This guidance was requested by WHC in Reference 1 and endorses the path forward strategy outlined in Reference 2.

RL directs WHC to proceed with the implementation of the K Basins sludge disposition strategy with emphasis on the following:

- continue to work on dispositioning of the K-East and K-West Basin floor sludges to be sent to either the Tank Farms or the Solid Waste Management Facility as appropriate;
- continue developing the design of equipment to de-sludge the fuel canisters and capture that sludge with minimal effect on the characteristics of the basin water with special emphasis on equipment design for capturing the sludge from the open bottom and side canisters in the K-East Basin;
- continue dispositioning small pieces of fuel and canister sludges as spent nuclear fuel to be processed and sent to dry storage, along with the rest of the fuel, if those cannot be transferred to Tank Farms or Solid Waste Management Facility; and
- continue developing the design of equipment, facilities, and transportation equipment, to support the removal of bulk floor sludge from the basins independent of the removal path for the fuel.



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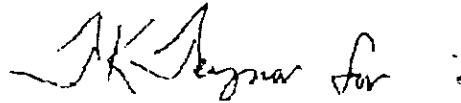
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RL recognizes that certain trade studies scheduled for completion by mid-July, 1995, could result in recommendations to make fundamental changes to the path forward strategy and, if approved, could have a significant effect on this guidance. Therefore, WHC is requested to resubmit by January 17, 1996, for RL approval, a definitive sludge disposition strategy.

RL appreciates the good work WHC has done on sludge disposition to date and looks forward to their continuing good performance. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me on (509) 376-7434 or your staff may contact Oscar Holgado, of my staff, on (509) 373-0589.

Sincerely,



C. A. Hansen, Assistant Manager
for Waste Management

NMD:OMH

cc: J. C. Fulton, WHC
E. W. Gerber, WHC
T. B. Veneziano, WHC